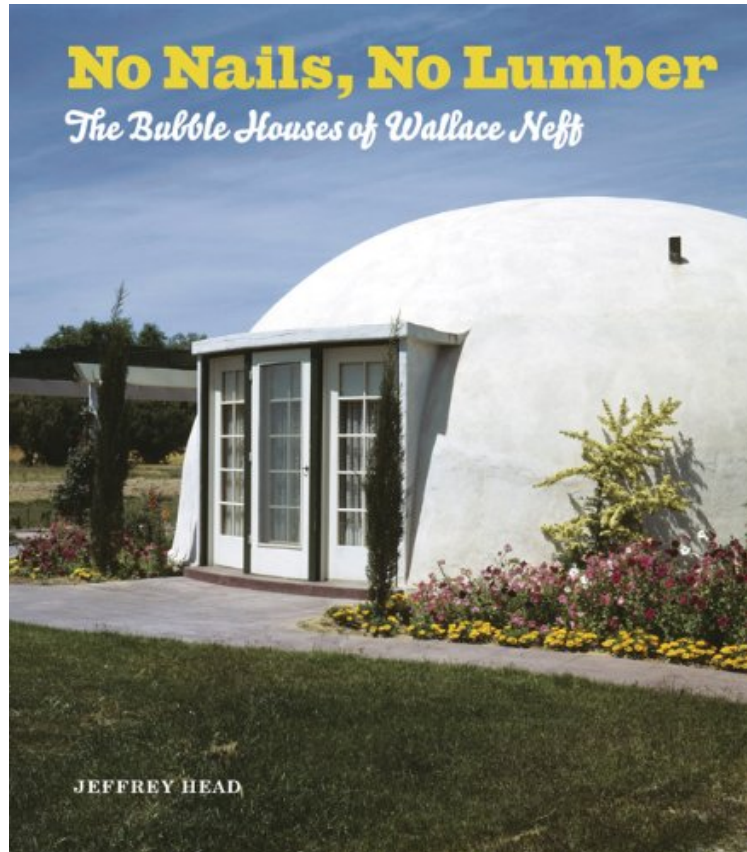


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## No Nails, No Lumber: The Bubble Houses of Wallace Neff

Jeffrey Head

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Imagine a house constructed in less than forty-eight hours, without using lumber or nails, that is more resistant to fire, earthquakes, and hurricanes than any traditionally built structure. This may sound like the latest development in prefab

housing or green architecture, but the design dates back to 1941 when architect Wallace Neff (1895-1982) developed Airform construction as a solution to the global housing crisis. Best known for his elegant Spanish Colonial revival estates in Southern California, Neff had a private passion for his dome-shaped "bubble houses" made of reinforced concrete cast in position over an inflatable balloon. *No Nails, No Lumber* shows the beauty and versatility of Neff's design in new and vintage photography, previously unpublished illustrations, and archival material and ephemera.

"Architect Wallace Neff defined the "California Style" using the hallmarks of the Spanish Colonial Revival movement. "Bubble Houses" were his answer to the global housing crisis and way ahead of their time." --San Diego magazine  
"Today, Neff's Airform architecture appears as both retro and futuristic - modern inspiration in the ongoing quest to develop efficient and affordable housing." -- The Los Angeles Times  
"That shape --- the rebellion against the cube... My heart also skips an extra beat when I see extraordinary people realising their vision, which is what Neff achieved with his blessed bubble house concept." --Flux magazine